



**General Services Administration
Federal Supply Service
Washington, DC 20406**

August 10, 2000

Dear GSA Customer:

On August 9, 2000, Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. announced a voluntary recall of all P235/75R15 Firestone Radial "ATX" and Radial "ATX II" tires. In addition Firestone has also recalled P235/75R15 "Wilderness AT" tires manufactured at Firestone's Decatur, Illinois, plant which have code "VD" imprinted on the sidewall. The recall includes tires provided as original equipment, as well as replacement tires. The recall was prompted by a significant number of reports of tread separation. These tires will be replaced by Firestone at no cost regardless of age, mileage or wear.

The tires may be found on sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks, and vans. Some Ford vehicles purchased by GSA came with these tires as original equipment, and other vehicles, including those made by Ford, General Motors and DaimlerChrysler may have had them installed as replacement tires.

The following information concerning the recall has been provided by Firestone for the owners of P235/75R15 size tires in the ATX, ATX II and those Wilderness AT tires produced at the Decatur, Illinois plant:

"Customers who have a recalled tire will receive a letter from the company notifying them of the recall and the steps they need to take. Customers who need assistance should call the toll-free customer service number at 800-465-1904.

Those who have a recalled tire should call their nearest local Firestone retailer to set up an appointment for an exchange. Because the preponderance of incidents is in ... four southern states and given the limited supply of replacement tires at this time, the company will be undertaking a three phase recall starting in (the four southern states of) Arizona, California, Florida and Texas. The second phase for the recall will be implemented in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma and Tennessee. The final phase will include the remainder of the states."

"When under inflated, all radial tires generate excessive heat. Driving on tires in this condition can lead to tread separation. Maintaining the proper inflation level will enhance the performance and life span of these tires."

“All vehicle owners using Wilderness tires should keep their tires inflated at the pressure recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. For owners of Ford Explorers or Mercury Mountaineers, with P235/75R15 ATX and Wilderness AT tires on their vehicles, Ford recommends these tires be maintained at a minimum of 26 psi. At the request of Firestone, Ford has evaluated the performance of these tires at 30 psi and has determined that the vehicles maintain good performance characteristics at this higher pressure. Ford recommends a tire pressure range of 26-30 psi. Firestone recommends a tire pressure of 30 psi.”

According to Firestone, you do not have to wait for a recall letter to have your tires replaced. If you have any suspicion that your present tires(s) may be defective, immediately take the vehicle for inspection and replacement. To replace your tires, you may take your vehicle to a Firestone dealer. For the location of the nearest dealer, please visit www.bridgestone-usa.com or call 1-800-465-1904. If you have a Ford or Mercury, you may also take your vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer for replacement.

If you experienced a failure of these tires or any other tires, or a failure with a resulting accident, please report the incident by e-mail to: vehicle.buying@gsa.gov or by fax (703-305-3034 or 6053). Please include a short description of the incident, the tire model, and mileage on the tire at time of failure, the tag number of the vehicle, point of contact and a phone number.

You may obtain additional information from Firestone at the web site and phone number provided above. You may also contact Ford at www.ford.com or call 1-800-660-4719. We are continuing to work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Firestone and our vehicle manufacturers on this matter and will provide additional information to you as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Mel L. Globerman

Mel L. Globerman, Chief
Engineering and Commodity Management Branch
Automotive Division